

# UNADOPTED

## GROVE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2026

**Present:** Cllr S K Dexter (Chairman) Cllr A P Harker  
Cllr W R Ackers Cllr K Jones  
Cllr R Batstone Cllr J Leggott  
Cllr M Charlton Cllr F D Parnell  
Cllr J Goodman Cllr K Rowland

**In attendance:** Mr Barnaby Harris (Senior planner at Persimmon Homes (Wessex))

**Clerk:** Mr G M Mundy

**130 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Parish Cllrs C T McCarthy, D Rolfe, G Smeddle and J M Stock. Apologies had also been received from District Cllr K Bentley.

**131 Declaration of Personal or Pecuniary Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting**

Cllr Rowland declared an interest in item 138 as she is the Manager for the Grove Day Centre for the Elderly. Cllr Goodman declared an interest in item 135 (c) and (d) as he works for Green and Co (estate agents).

**132 To sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 December 2025**

It was **MOVED** the Chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“that the minutes of the meeting are signed as a true record of the meeting”**

**133 To sign the minutes of the Special Full Council meeting held on 9 December 2025**

It was **MOVED** the Chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“that the minutes of the meeting are signed as a true record of the meeting”**

**134 Clerks’ summary report from the previous meeting**

Clerk (a) Minute 117(a) – Asset of Community Value (ACV). The Clerk informed the Council that he has now started the process of completing this action and will bring forward to Council once it is ready for submission.

(b) Minute 117(b) – Investments. The Clerk informed the Council that a meeting took place between The Vice Chairman, Cllr Leggott and the former Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer of Bromsgrove and Redditch Council (with experience of investments/Council Finance).

Clerk The meeting was productive and he has agreed to sit in on the meetings with investment companies as an impartial advisor. The Clerk added that he will try and arrange for the meetings to take place in February 2026.

(c) Minute 117(d) – Security working group. The Clerk informed the Council that he has approached a local Grounds maintenance company to provide a single quote and will inform the Security Working group once it has been received.

**2915**

## UNADOPTED

Full Council

13 January 2026

- Clerk
- (d) Minute 117(g) – CCTV for Millbrook Square. The Clerk informed the Council that he will attend a site meeting with Fortress Alarms to identify a suitable spot for CCTV. Once agreed with Fortress Alarms he will then seek permission of the land/building owner for their permission to erect either a pole to mount a CCTV camera on or mount a camera directly onto their property.
- Clerk
- (e) Minute 119 – Question from Mr David Cotterill. The Clerk informed the Council that he has personally notified Mr Cotterill of the Council's decision.
- (f) Minute 122 – S106 funding for £54,788.25 for the Three Bridges public art project. The Clerk informed the Council that he has had to suspend any works regarding this project because of the following issues.
- Village Green pedestrian bridge – This bridge is in the ownership of the County Council, and they have said that it is structurally unsafe to install iron clad public art on its railings
  - St Ives pedestrian bridge – This bridge is also under the control of the County Council, and they are currently assessing the railings for structural integrity.
- (h) Minute 126 – Precept for the 2026/27 financial year. The Clerk informed the Council that he has notified the Precepting Authority of the Council's request.
- (i) Minute 127 – Planning application P25/V2215/FUL. The Clerk informed the Council that he has notified the Planning Authority of the Council's decision in this regard.

### **135 Updates on Grove Airfield (Wellington Gate development)**

- (a) To receive Mr Barnaby Harris (Senior Planner at Persimmon Homes (Wessex) and to view the new plans for the Community Hub arising from the Wellington gate development. Mr Harris informed the Council that following the public consultation and consultation with the Council from last year, the plans for the new community hub had been amended and he was here to present those amended plans and to receive any feedback from members.

Following the presentation, Mr Harris was asked about the timescales of this piece of infrastructure being delivered on the Wellington Gate development. Mr Harris responded and said that it is hoped that this will be submitted to the planning authority within the next month and public consultation shortly after with the 6-month determination period. Mr Harris said that the building itself is probably 12 – 18 month build.

- (b) Minutes and slides of the Grove Development Forum meeting held on 28 November 2025. The minutes and slides were noted.
- (c) P24/V1451/FUL - Construction of the 'missing link' section of the Grove Northern Link Road, including associated landscaping, infrastructure and amendments to Denchworth Road. (As amended by information received 18 December 2025.) on land to the north of Denchworth Road, Grove, OX12 0AH.

Comment: No objection to this application

2916

# UNADOPTED

- (d) P25/V2681/RM – Application for approval of Reserved Matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following consent granted under S73 application P17/V3130/FUL (P12/V0299/O) for the rection of 25 dwellings and associated landscaping and infrastructure. (Outline application for a residential development of about 2,500 dwellings with associated services and facilities including secondary school, primary schools and local centre) on land at the Former Grove Airfield West of Grove, to the West of Newlands Drive, Grove.

Comment: No objection to this application

## **136 Questions from the public**

No members of the public were present, and no questions had been tabled.

## **137 To receive District and County Councillor reports**

- (a) County and District Council reports. Parish, County and District Cllr R Batstone had submitted written report. The County Cllr report and District Cllr are both at Appendix 1.

## **138 To consider re-directing a refund of £175 (from the Wantage Silver Band) to the Grove Day Centre for the Elderly (due to the cancellation of the Christmas tree carol service in December 2025).**

Following a discussion, it was **MOVED** Cllr Parnell **SECONDED** Cllr Leggott and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk “to re-direct the refund of £175 to the Grove Day Centre for the Elderly”

## **139 To consider the DRAFT meeting timetable for the 2026-27 municipal year**

Clerk It was agreed to adopt the meeting timetable for 2026-27 municipal year.

## **140 Chairman’s Communications**

- (a) Proposed school crossing – St Johns CofE Academy Secondary School site. The Clerk informed the Council that in order for him to obtain quotes for the design of a proposed school crossing at the St Johns CofE Academy Secondary School site he needed to know what type of crossing was required and the approximate location of the crossing.

Clerk Following a discussion, it was generally agreed that a controlled crossing was required and in the area between Dakota Drive and Norseman Road on Liberator Lane.

## **141 Accounts for payments, cash and bank balances (including reserves and investments since the last meeting and to note any losses or gains in the CCLA Property Fund**

It was **MOVED** Cllr Ackers **SECONDED** Cllr Rowland and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“that the accounts for payment of £58,242.44 are adopted, the cash and bank balances and that the losses and or gains in the CCLA Property Fund are noted”**

Meeting closed: 8.18pm

Confirmed: 24 February 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**County Council Report to Full Council on 13 January 2026**

**Introduction**

Happy new year. It is going to be a busy year. I welcome feedback on what people would like to see.

**Flags on Lamp Posts**

We had a briefing on the flags on Tuesday 6 January. In Grove the first set were taken down by OCC, but they have been replaced. No immediate action is planned because we do not want to be in a tit for tat situation. The activity is illegal as it involved council property. It is also dangerous.

**Council Budget**

This is a major piece of work over the next couple of months. Below is a summary of the background from the cabinet member.

The government has undertaken its "Fair Funding Review" and delivered the "settlement" for the next 3 years.

The headlines are that it has reduced the amount of funding delivered by central government to Oxfordshire (and incidentally to all the districts bar the city) and has assumed that we will increase Council Tax by 4.99% each year. Council Tax increases mean additional income from residents of £154m over the 3 years, and the government has calculated that this is the amount required to manage the pressures from inflation, increased population and additional demands on services in areas like adult social care and looking after Oxfordshire's young people. The Government has also calculated that it will deliver funding that will only provide additional income to the council of £141m, and it will take away the balance of £14m to spend on other parts of the country.

We will with difficulty come up with a balanced budget for next year. The position for subsequent years will be very challenging. The budget will be approved by the County Council on 10 February.

**Councillor Priority Fund**

This is now available. See details at: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund). Please contact me if you have any possible projects.

**Local Government Reorganisation**

All three options have been submitted to government on time. I do not have any feedback on their reactions. Watch this space. There is some suggestion that council elections will be delayed. This will not affect our area as we have no planned elections.

There is little sign of progress at the strategic level. We have emphasised that we do not want Swindon in any strategic authority. Note that Mayoral elections have been delayed.

**Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee**

Next meeting is 29 January. I am now on a working group overseeing the refurbishment of Wantage Hospital which is going well. We also had a briefing on maternity services at the JR and these will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

**Congestion Charge**

Seems to be working reasonably well. Oxford still seemed busy over Christmas.

**Planning & Regulation Committee**

An interesting visit to a quarry in Wroxton before approving an extension of their work.

## UNADOPTED

### **Audit and Governance Committee**

Next meeting on 14 January. Meeting in November considered audit reports from internal and external auditors.

### **Road Closures**

Recreation lane on 23<sup>rd</sup> February between 0930 and 1530.  
Cane Lane on 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February between 0930 and 1530.

### **Faringdon & Wantage Locality Meeting**

Meeting on 17 December. Topics suggested by officers included school streets and making active travel safer for pupils. Councillors brought up several issues but mainly flooding risks and SESRO.

Ron Batstone

County Councillor  
Grove Ward

**District Council report to Full Council on 13 January 2026**

**New People**

Adrianna Partridge has now been appointed as the chief executive of the combined district.

**Councillors**

Hannah Griffin is the new district councillor for the Challow's and surrounding villages.

Val Shaw replaces Paul Barrow on Joint HOSC Committee.

**Local Government Reorganisation**

The district preferred Ridgeway council option is one of three submitted to government.

**Joint Local Plan**

See <https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/joint-local-plan-2041-examination/> for the latest information. The plan is now back with the inspectors.

**P25/V1202/MPO Monks Farm**

Nothing further to report.

Ron Batstone

District Councillor  
Grove North Ward

## **Appendix 3**

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETING 13 JANUARY 2026** Accounts for Payment from 28 November 2025 – 8 JANUARY 2026

#### **Environmental Services**

	Incl VAT	Ex VAT
Shield Maintenance, Dog Waste Removal Nov 25	499.20	416.00
Castle Water, Cemetery water Oct 25	23.86	
Biffa, Bin service 28/10 – 18/11	189.48	157.90
Shield Maintenance, Dog Waste Removal Dec 25	499.20	416.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1211.74</b>	

#### **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

	Incl VAT	Ex VAT
Microsoft 365 Family,	104.99	87.49
British Gas OMH Gas, 22 Sep-20 Oct 25	124.69	118.76
Grenke, Telephone rental Nov 25	221.70	184.75
Vale of White Horse DC, Annual Premises Licence OMH	180.00	
Peopletime, November pension	1305.95	
Royal British Legion, Donation	80.00	
Castle Water, OMH Water Oct 25	105.96	
Lyreco, Stationery and postage stamps	242.10	230.42
Siemens, Photocopier lease rental, service fee and asset protection	100.00	83.33
Cintra HR Services, Payroll Oct 25	450.00	375.00
Wantage Silver Band, Christmas Carol Service (re-imbursed)	175.00	
Grove Computer Services, Reinstalling new computers & laptop	880.00	
LM Gas Services, OMH boiler repairs	931.20	744.96
Letcombe Brook Project, Grant	7000.00	
Mtech, Telephone calls Oct 25	145.82	120.93
SSE, WG Pavillion 1 Oct – 31 Oct 25	630.84	600.80
SSE, OMH 1 Oct - 31 Oct 25	285.79	269.32
Dell Technologies, New computer	499.00	415.83
Onecom, Phoneline Oct 25 – to be reimbursed	384.77	320.64
Tesco, Consumables	16.14	12.91
Onecom, Phoneline Nov 25 – to be reimbursed	348.83	290.69
EE, Clerk's mobile phone Nov 25	29.53	23.62
Peopletime, December pension	1307.03	
SSE, OMH 1 Nov – 30 Nov 25	273.66	260.63
Fortress Alarms, CCTV Annual maintenance	756.00	630.00
BNP Paribas, Office telecoms 20/11/2005-19/12/2005	531.04	442.53
SSE, WG Pavillion 1 Nov – 31 Nov 25	612.40	583.24
Norton, Annual subscription 2026	99.99	83.32
Peopletime, November tax & NI Contributions	5774.52	
Peopletime, December wages	15427.85	
Castle Water, OMH Water Nov 25	105.39	
E Sim, Sale of office furniture (outside service office)	100.00	
L Campbell, Refund of cancelled OMH booking	58.00	
St Johns, Hall Hire (Wellington Gate Fund)	261.00	
Tesco, Tea/Coffee	5.20	4.16
British Gas OMH Gas, 21 Oct – 21 Nov 25	501.39	417.83
Seldram Supplies, OMH Cleaning products	87.35	72.80
Grenke, Telephone rental Dec 25	221.70	184.75
BNP Paribas, Office telecoms 20/12/25 – 19/1/26	321.04	267.53
Canon, Ink cartridge	26.49	21.19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40712.36</b>	

**leisure & Recreation Committee**

	Incl VAT	Ex VAT
Charlton Park GC, Gas butane	58.95	56.14
RJR Tree Work, Tree @ 43 Collett Way	822.00	685.00
Charlton Environmental Ltd, Footpath weed spraying	954.00	795.00
Amazon, Sensor light for tractor shed	26.58	22.16
Earthline Ltd, Crushed tarmac 1 x 15m load	540.00	450.00
Castle Water, Tractor Shed water Oct 25	0.88	
Earthline Ltd, Crushed tarmac 2 x 15m loads	1080.00	800.00
Charlton Park GC, Tree for Wellington Gate Carol Services	176.50	
Dell Technologies, New laptop (Outside Services Manager)	349.01	290.84
SSE, Storage Shed 1 Oct – 31 Oct 25	52.21	49.72
Grant & Stone, Maintenance materials	18.60	14.88
Earthline Ltd, Crushed tarmac 1 x 15m load	540.00	450.00
Savills, Wasbrough Field Rent 12/26 – 3/26	685.84	
SSE, Storage Shed 1 Nov – 30 Nov 25	50.52	48.11
RJR Tree Works, Grinding pf multiple tree stumps	702.00	585.00
Falcon Signs, Signs for Allen Close play area x 2	148.00	123.33
HLW Services, Electric works at Tractor Shed and new office	2269.04	1600.00
Fortress Alarms UK Ltd, CCTV Repair	336.00	280.00
Castle Water, Allotment water Nov 25	293.93	
Grant & Stone, Maintenance materials	27.19	22.65
Castle Water, Tractor Shed water Nov 25	12.78	
Castle Water, Allotment water Oct 25	171.83	
Fortress Alarms UK Ltd, CCTV-new camera at Tractor Shed Area	4284.00	3570.00
RJR Tree Works, Pollard 3 x Limetree @ Evenlode Close	1644.00	1370.00
RJR Tree Works, Pollard Sycamore Tree	528.00	440.00
RJR Tree Works, Removal of Cherry Tree	390.00	325.00
Seldram Supplies, Bin bags	72.58	60.48
LJ & CA Cannings, Maintenance materials	44.64	37.20
Charlton Park Blue Slate	13.98	11.65
Wantage Motorist Centre, Parts	11.95	
Ebay, Air intake filter hose	13.33	10.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16318.34</b>	

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ (Original signed)

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE £58,242.44**

**A/c balances as at 8 January 2026**

Charity A/c	-	£4,383.80
Community Directplus A/c	-	£144,570.50
Instant Deposit A/c	-	£81,184.79
Petty Cash	-	£152.92
<b>Total Cash in Bank</b>	-	<b><u>£230,292.01</u></b>

**Investments (including Reserves)**

CCLA – Public Sector Deposit Fund (Average yield is 4.5% - 3.21%)	-	£760,000 ** – (Yield to date this FY is £24,416.99 =
CCLA – Local Authorities Property Fund current LAPF 3.04%)	-	£120,000 ** – (Yield to date this FY is £3,651.56 =
value as at 31 Oct 25 is £105,888.81 (a Loss of £14,111.19)		

<b>Total Investments</b>	-	<b><u>£880,000.00</u></b>
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<b>Total Bank and Investments</b>	-	<b><u>£1,110,292.01</u></b>
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**Reserves breakdown as 8 January 2026**

General Reserves	-	<u>£120,783</u>
Specific (Earmarked) Reserves:		
• Future Projects Reserve	-	£1,001
• Allotment Deposits Reserve	-	£1,850
• Balancing Pond	-	£505
• Community Infrastructure Levy	-	£28,173 (CIL payment 4/25)
• Depreciation Reserve	-	£65,006
• Grove Meadows Reserve	-	£118,176 (s106 contributions)
• GAD Community Facilities Fund	-	£66,908* (s106 contributions)
• GAD Open Spaces maintenance fund	-	£76,078 (s106 contributions)
• GAD Drainage maintenance fund	-	£225,265 (s106 contributions)
• GAD Replacement Sports Facilities Fund	-	£14,809 (s106 contributions)
<b>Total Specific (Earmarked) Reserves</b>	-	<b><u>£597,772</u></b>
<b>Minus CCLA Property Fund</b>	-	<b><u>£120,000</u></b>
<b>Total available reserves</b>	-	<b><u>£598,555</u></b>